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SENATE MEMORIAL 54

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REGARDING THE ENHANCEMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN'S NUTRITION AND
NEW MEXICO'S FARMING ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the
national school lunch program and national school breakfast
program have provided millions of healthy and nutritious meals
to children across New Mexico for more than sixty years; and

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs play an important role
in helping to ensure that every student in New Mexico starts
school ready to learn, because a hungry or undernourished child
is less likely to be an eager and attentive student; and

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs have demonstrated a
commitment in New Mexico to promote children's health,
well-being and educational excellence, primary goals of student
success; and

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1 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, two hundred three public, private
2 and bureau of Indian affairs schools serve over two hundred
3 twelve thousand children who participate in the free or
4 reduced-price school meal programs, constituting two-thirds of
5 the total school population; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico is ranked number one in the country in
7 the number of students participating in school breakfast
8 programs; and

9 WHEREAS, the threat to the future health of New Mexico's
10 children has never been greater because, as in the case of
11 children across America, the percentage of New Mexico's
12 children who are obese or overweight (twenty-four percent of
13 the state's high school students) is growing; and

14 WHEREAS, if New Mexico does not reverse these risks by
15 improving its young people's diets, the state is in danger of
16 raising the first generation of American children with a lower
17 life expectancy than their parents; and

18 WHEREAS, obesity and diet-related diseases cost New
19 Mexicans three hundred twenty-four million dollars
20 (\$324,000,000) annually; and

21 WHEREAS, healthy eating habits are formed during childhood
22 and decrease the risk of chronic diseases; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2007, the New Mexico department of
24 agriculture, in conjunction with farm to table, a New Mexico
25 nonprofit entity, published the New Mexico farm to school

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1 directory, which lists more than one hundred New Mexico farmers
2 who are ready, able and willing to supply nutritious and
3 locally grown foods and crops to the school districts of New
4 Mexico;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
6 OF NEW MEXICO that it be committed to turn back the rising tide
7 of poor diet by having additional fresh fruits and vegetables
8 served in school meals to every New Mexico student and to
9 strengthening our farming communities and increasing farmers'
10 incomes by purchasing fruits and vegetables, when available,
11 from New Mexico farmers; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it request that the school
13 districts and their respective boards of education and
14 superintendents place great emphasis on, and make a high
15 priority as a matter of educational policy for, the purchase of
16 locally grown foods in their school food programs for the
17 benefit of their students; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it encourage the food service
19 directors of New Mexico school districts to search out in their
20 various locales, with the assistance of the New Mexico
21 department of agriculture and farm to table, local farmers who
22 want to supply locally grown foods for school food programs;
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it encourage the sending of
25 copies of the New Mexico farm to school directory to all school

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1 food service directors; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to all New Mexico school districts.

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